Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 TRSE-00 OMB-01 IO-13 /090 W
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R 290850Z JUL 78
FM AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2564
INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
USMISSION USUN
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LUBUMBASHI 0913

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRN, AO, CG
SUBJECT: VISIT TO LUBUMBASHI OF REPRESENTATIVE OF TANGANYIKA
HOLDINGS

- 1. KENNETH ROBBIE OF TANGANYIKA HOLDINGS HAS BEEN IN LUBUMBASHI FROM JULY 25 TO JULY 29 DISCUSSING PROSPECTS OF A REOPENED BENGUELA RAILROAD WITH SHABAN RAILROAD, MINING. AND COMMERIAL INTERESTS.
- 2. ROBBIE SAID LINE IS OPEN FOR REGULAR TRAFFIC THROUGH ANGOLA UP TO ZAIRIAN BORDER. HE SAID BENGUELA OFFICIALS IN ANGOLA HAVE HAD OCCASIONAL INFORMAL CONTACTS WITH UNITA IN THE AREAS UNITA CONTROLS. TO DATE, UNITA HAS NOT DISTURBED THE RAIL LINE. ONLY PROBLEM HE MAINTAINED WAS WITH BROKEN BRIDGE AT DILOLO BORDER CROSSING. ALTHOUGH BRIDGE DISCUSSED IN GENERAL TERMS DURING MEETINGS IN LUBUMBASHI, ZAIRIAN RAILROAD OFFICIALS (SNCZ) MADE NO COMMITMENTS TO STUDY OR REPAIR. ROBBIE SAID SNCZ SEEMED TO BE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WAITING FOR A POLITICAL SIGNAL FROM KINSHASA. WHETHER SNCZ OR BENGUELA WOULD BEAR OR DIVIDE COST OF REPAIRS WILL DEPEND UPON SPECIFIC LOCATION OF DAMAGE TO BRIDGE.

3. ROBBIE SAID THAT SNCZ OFFICIALS, GECAMINES, SODI-MIZA, AND OTHER MINING AND COMMERICIAL INTERESTS HAVE GIVEN HIM A WARM RECEPTION. ALL COMPANIES SAID THEY HOPED RAILROAD COULD BE OPENED AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE. THEY ADDED THAT THEY WOULD PROVIDE TRAFFIC THROUGH LOBITO ROUTE, ALTHOUGH DETAILS OF AMOUNTS ARE UNAVAILABLE.

4. ROBBIE WILL BE IN KINSHASA FOR A FEW DAYS BEGINNING JULY 29. BELGIAN AMBASSADOR HAS ASKED FOR A BRIEFING BEFORE PROPOSED VISIT OF SIMONET TO KINSHASA. FROM KINSHASA, ROBBIE WILL BE PROCEEDING TO LUSAKA BEFORE RETURNING TO LONDON.

BORG

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Message Attributes

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